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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/655,360	09/04/2003	Yoshiaki Sakita	MAT-8459US	1580

23122 7590 10/06/2006	EXAMINER
RATNERPRESTIA	BARNES, CRYSTAL J
P O BOX 980	

VALLEY FORGE, PA 19482-0980	ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	2121	

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/655,360	SAKITA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Crystal J. Barnes	2121	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>04 September 2003</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>*1-21*</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>*1-21*</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>04 September 2003</u> is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4 Sept 2003</u>.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   The following is a Non-Final Office Action upon examination of the above-

identified application on the merits. Claims 1-21 are pending in this application.

Priority

2.   Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d),

which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3.   The examiner has considered the information disclosure statement (IDS)

submitted on 4 September 2003.

Drawings

4.   The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5)

because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the

description: reference number 39 in figures 3 and 11, reference number 339 in

figure 22 and reference number 309 in figure 23 are not mentioned in the

specification. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or

amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the

description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office

action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing

sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of

the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted

after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either

"Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes

are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of

any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the

drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

5.   The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

selector unit 1C is not shown in figures 15 and 17A as mentioned on page 33 line 1.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102

that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office

action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7.   Claims 1-7, 10-16, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being

anticipated by US Pub. No. 2003/0115682 A1 to Gardner.

As per claim 1, the Gardner reference discloses a cloth washer comprising:

selector means (see page 2 [0024], "user interface 16") for selecting one of a

plurality of basic operating programs (see page 2 [0032], "wash cycle instructions,

dryer instructions") preprogrammed individually with specifications of washing

operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029], "type of laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature

20A, 20B"), rinsing operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029], "rinse temperature 22A,

22B") and spin-dry operation (see page 2 [0028, 0029], "dryer temperature 24A,

24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B"); special operating program setting means (see

page 2 [0034], "favorite option 40") for establishing a special operating program

("favorite setting") by correcting (see page 2 [0033], "modify the instructions") at

least one of the specifications of washing operation (see page 2 [0032], "wash

cycle instruction"), rinsing operation and spin-dry operation (see page 2 [0033],

"instructions for a dryer instructions") preprogrammed for said one selected (see

page 2 [0034], "entire washing and drying cycle") by said selector means ("user

interface 16") among said plurality of basic operating programs ("wash cycle

instructions, dryer instructions"); and control means (see page 2 [0024-0026],

"control unit 15, washer control unit 15A, dryer control unit 15B") for controlling

said washing operation ("type of laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature 20A, 20B"),

said rinsing operation ("rinse temperature 22A, 22B") and said spin-dry operation

("dryer temperature 24A, 24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B") according to said

special operating program ("favorite setting") established by said special operating

program setting means ("favorite option 40").

As per claim 2, the Gardner reference discloses said selector means ("user

interface 16") is capable of selecting a predetermined one (see page 2 [0032],

"wash cycle instruction") of said plurality of basic operating programs ("wash cycle

instructions, dryer instructions").

As per claim 3, the Gardner reference discloses further comprising input means (see page 2 [0024], "user interface 16 ... dials, buttons, and switches") for accepting entry of selection information ("type of laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature 20A, 20B") for selecting one ("wash cycle instruction") of said plurality of basic operating programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions").

As per claim 4, the Gardner reference discloses said input means ("user interface 16") comprises a touch-sensitive panel (see page 2 [0024], "touch screen display").

As per claim 5, the Gardner reference discloses further comprising input means ("user interface 16") for accepting entry of correction information (see page 2 [0033], "modify the instruction, provide alternative instructions") for correcting at least one of the specifications of said washing operation ("wash cycle instruction"), said rinsing operation ("rinse temperature 22A, 22B") and said spin-dry operation ("instructions for a dryer instructions") preprogrammed for said one among said plurality of basic operating programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions").

As per claim 6, the Gardner reference discloses said input means ("user interface 16") comprises a touch-sensitive panel (see page 2 [0024], "touch screen display").

As per claim 7, the Gardner reference discloses further comprising display means (see page 2 [0024], "display, touch screen display … user output") for displaying the specifications of said washing operation ("type of laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature 20A, 20B"), said rinsing operation ("rinse temperature 22A, 22B") and said spin-dry operation ("dryer temperature 24A, 24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B") preprogrammed for said one selected by said selector means ("user interface 16") among said plurality of basic operating programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions"), and said correction information "modify the instruction, provide alternative instructions") entered through said input means ("user interface 16").

As per claim 10, the Gardner reference discloses said plurality of basic operating programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions") are further preprogrammed individually with specification of drying operation ("dryer temperature 24A, 24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B"), and said special operating program setting means ("favorite option 40") establishes said special operating

program "favorite setting") by correcting ("modify the instructions, provide

alternative instructions") at least one of the specifications of said washing

operation ("wash cycle instruction"), said rinsing operation ("rinse temperature

22A, 22B"), said spin-dry operation ("instructions for a dryer instructions"), and

said drying operation ("instructions for a dryer instructions").

As per claim 11, the Gardner reference discloses a control system comprising

a cloth washer (see page 2 [0024, 0026], "washer 12, combination washer/dryer")

and a first terminal (see page 2 [0024], "user interface 16") for controlling said

cloth washer ("washer 12, combination washer/dryer"), wherein said first terminal

("user interface 16") comprises: selector means (see page 2 [0024], "dials, buttons,

and switches, touch screen display, user input") for selecting one of a plurality of

basic operating programs (see page 2 [0032], "wash cycle instructions, dryer

instructions") individually preprogrammed with specifications of washing operation

(see page 2 [0027, 0029], "type of laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature 20A, 20B"),

rinsing operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029], "rinse temperature 22A, 22B") and

spin-dry operation (see page 2 [0028, 0029], "dryer temperature 24A, 24B, drying

instruction 26A, 26B") to be performed by said cloth washer ("washer 12,

combination washer/dryer"); special operating program setting means (see page 2

[0034], "favorite option 40") for establishing a special operating program

("favorite setting") by correcting (see page 2 [0033], "modify the instructions") at

least one of the specifications of said washing operation (see page 2 [0032], "wash

cycle instruction"), said rinsing operation and said spin-dry operation (see page 2

[0033], "instructions for a dryer instructions") preprogrammed for said one

selected (see page 2 [0034], "entire washing and drying cycle") by said selector

means ("user interface 16") among said plurality of basic operating programs ("wash

cycle instructions, dryer instructions"); and transmitter means (see page 2 [0035],

"button or other input") for transmitting a information representing the

specifications of said special operating program ("favorite setting") established by

said special operating program setting means ("favorite option 40"), and further

wherein said cloth washer ("washer 12, combination washer/dryer") comprises:

receiver means (see page 2 [0024], "control unit 15, washer control unit 15A") for

receiving the information representing the specifications of said special operating

program ("favorite setting") transmitted by said transmitter means ("button or

other input") provided in said first terminal ("user interface 16C"); and control

means ("control unit 15, washer control unit 15A") for controlling said washing

operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029], "type of laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature

20A, 20B"), said rinsing operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029], "rinse temperature

22A, 22B") and said spin-dry operation (see page 2 [0028, 0029], "dryer

temperature 24A, 24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B") according to the information

representing the specifications of said special operating program ("favorite

setting") received by said receiver means ("control unit 15, washer control unit

15A").

As per claim 12, the Gardner reference discloses said first terminal ("user

interface 16C") further having input means ("user input") for accepting entry of

selection information ("type of laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature 20A, 20B") for

selecting one ("wash cycle instruction") of said plurality of basic operating

programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions").

As per claim 13, the Gardner reference discloses said input means ("user

interface 16") comprises a touch-sensitive panel (see page 2 [0024], "touch screen

display").

As per claim 14, the Gardner reference discloses said first terminal ("user

interface 16") further having input means ("user input") for accepting entry of

correction information (see page 2 [0033], "modify the instruction, provide

alternative instructions") for correcting at least one of the specifications of said

washing operation ("wash cycle instruction"), said rinsing operation ("rinse

temperature 22A, 22B") and said spin-dry operation ("instructions for a dryer

instructions") preprogrammed for said one among said plurality of basic operating

programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions").

As per claim 15, the Gardner reference discloses said input means ("user

interface 16") comprises a touch-sensitive panel (see page 2 [0024], "touch screen

display").

As per claim 16, the Gardner reference discloses said plurality of basic

operating programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions") are further

preprogrammed individually with specification of drying operation ("dryer

temperature 24A, 24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B"), and said special operating

program setting means ("favorite option 40") establishes said special operating

program "favorite setting") by correcting ("modify the instructions, provide

alternative instructions") at least one of the specifications of said washing

operation ("wash cycle instruction"), said rinsing operation ("rinse temperature

22A, 22B"), said spin-dry operation ("instructions for a dryer instructions"), and

said drying operation ("instructions for a dryer instructions").

As per claim 20, the Gardner reference discloses a dish washer-dryer comprising: selector means (see page 2 [0024], "user interface 16") for selecting one of a plurality of basic operating programs (see page 2 [0032], "wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions") individually preprogrammed with specifications of washing operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029], "type of laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature 20A, 20B"), rinsing operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029], "rinse temperature 22A, 22B") and drying operation (see page 2 [0028, 0029], "dryer temperature 24A, 24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B"); special operating program setting means (see page 2 [0034], "favorite option 40") for establishing a special operating program ("favorite setting") by correcting (see page 2 [0033], "modify the instructions") at least one of the specifications of washing operation (see page 2 [0032], "wash cycle instruction"), rinsing operation and drying operation (see page 2 [0033], "instructions for a dryer instructions") preprogrammed for said one selected (see page 2 [0034], "entire washing and drying cycle") by said selector means ("user interface 16") among said plurality of basic operating programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions"); and control means (see page 2 [0024-0026], "control unit 15, washer control unit 15A, dryer control unit 15B") for controlling said washing operation ("type of laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature

20A, 20B"), said rinsing operation ("rinse temperature 22A, 22B") and said drying

operation ("dryer temperature 24A, 24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B") according

to said special operating program ("favorite setting") established by said special

operating program setting means ("favorite option 40").

As per claim 21, the Gardner reference discloses a control system

comprising a dish washer-dryer (see page 2 [0024, 0026], "washer 12, combination

washer/dryer") and a second terminal (see page 2 [0024], "user interface 16") for

controlling said dish washer-dryer ("washer 12, combination washer/dryer"),

wherein said second terminal ("user interface 16") comprises: selector means (see

page 2 [0024], "dials, buttons, and switches, touch screen display, user input") for

selecting one of a plurality of basic operating programs (see page 2 [0032], "wash

cycle instructions, dryer instructions") individually preprogrammed with

specifications of washing operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029], "type of laundry 18A,

18B, wash temperature 20A, 20B"), rinsing operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029],

"rinse temperature 22A, 22B") and drying operation (see page 2 [0028, 0029],

"dryer temperature 24A, 24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B") to be performed by

said dish washer-dryer ("washer 12, combination washer/dryer"); special operating

program setting means (see page 2 [0034], "favorite option 40") for establishing a

special operating program ("favorite setting") by correcting (see page 2 [0033],

"modify the instructions") at least one of the specifications of said washing

operation (see page 2 [0032], "wash cycle instruction"), said rinsing operation and

said drying operation (see page 2 [0033], "instructions for a dryer instructions")

preprogrammed for said one selected (see page 2 [0034], "entire washing and

drying cycle") by said selector means ("user interface 16") among said plurality of

basic operating programs ("wash cycle instructions, dryer instructions"); and

transmitter means (see page 2 [0035], "button or other input") for transmitting a

information representing the specifications of said special operating program

("favorite setting") established by said special operating program setting means

("favorite option 40"), and further wherein said dish washer-dryer ("washer 12,

combination washer/dryer") comprises: receiver means (see page 2 [0024], "control

unit 15, washer control unit 15A") for receiving the information representing the

specifications of said special operating program ("favorite setting") transmitted by

said transmitter means ("button or other input") provided in said second terminal

("user interface 16C"); and control means ("control unit 15, washer control unit

15A") for controlling said washing operation (see page 2 [0027, 0029], "type of

laundry 18A, 18B, wash temperature 20A, 20B"), said rinsing operation (see page 2

[0027, 0029], "rinse temperature 22A, 22B") and said drying operation (see page 2

[0028, 0029], "dryer temperature 24A, 24B, drying instruction 26A, 26B")

according to the information representing the specifications of said special

operating program ("favorite setting") received by said receiver means ("control

unit 15, washer control unit 15A").

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as
> set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to
> be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been
> obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which
> said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the
> invention was made.

9.   Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over US Pub. No. 2003/0115682 A1 to Gardner in view of US Pub. No.

2002/0087351 A1 to Jo.

As per claim 8, the Gardner reference does not expressly disclose said

plurality of basic operating programs are individually preprogrammed with washing

time for said washing operation, number of rinse cycles for said rinsing operation

and spin-dry time for said spin-dry operation.

The Jo reference discloses

(see page 1 [0005], "The typical washing machine has various washing course

programs in its memory, each of which automatically sets a washing time, rinsing

time, agitation or spinning time, etc. when selected by a user. The programmed

settings are appropriate to the amount of clothes and cloth material being washed

in order to prevent damage to the clothes as well as washing more effectively.")

(see page 1 [0006], "The washing course programs usually include settings

for a spinning wash, a high-concentrated wash, a first laundering, a pulsating wash,

a clothes-soaking wash, a wool-fabric wash, etc. Thus, a user can wash clothes

automatically simply by selecting the washing course program he or she wants.")

(see page 2 [0026], "The washing condition information may include agitation

settings, for example, gentlest, medium-gentle, medium, medium-heavy, heavy,

heaviest, etc., water level, a type of washing program (for example, agitation or

spinning wash, high-concentrated wash, a first laundering, pulsating wash, clothes-

soaking wash, etc.), washing time (for example, 10 minutes-2 hours), the number of

washing repetitions, the number of agitation or spinning cycles, agitation or

spinning time, the number of rinsing repetitions, etc.")

(see page 2 [0028], "... the washing machine 40 can measure the load to be

washed and automatically select the optimal washing course program, washing time,

the number of washing repetitions, the number of agitation or spin cycles, time of

each agitation or spin cycle, the number of rinsing repetitions, etc. based on the

measured load.")

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person

of ordinary skill in the art to modify the washer instruction and dryer instruction

taught by the Gardner reference with the various washing course programs taught

by the Jo reference.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the

washer instruction and dryer instruction with the various washing course programs

to illustrate the typical washing condition information of a washing machine.

As per claim 9, the Gardner reference does not expressly disclose said

plurality of basic operating programs are individually preprogrammed with strength

of swirling water in said washing operation and said rinsing operation, and spinning

speed in said spin-dry operation.

The Jo reference discloses

(see page 2 [0026], "The washing condition information may include agitation

settings, for example, gentlest, medium-gentle, medium, medium-heavy, heavy,

heaviest, etc., water level, a type of washing program (for example, agitation or

spinning wash, high-concentrated wash, a first laundering, pulsating wash, clothes-

soaking wash, etc.), washing time (for example, 10 minutes-2 hours), the number of

washing repetitions, the number of agitation or spinning cycles, agitation or

spinning time, the number of rinsing repetitions, etc.")

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person

of ordinary skill in the art to modify the washer instruction and dryer instruction

taught by the Gardner reference with the various washing course programs taught

by the Jo reference.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the

washer instruction and dryer instruction with the various washing course programs

to illustrate the typical washing condition information of a washing machine.

10.   Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US

Pub. No. 2003/0115682 A1 to Gardner in view of USPN 6,983,628 B2 to Cho.

As per claim 17, the Gardner reference does not expressly disclose further

comprising a network for connecting between said transmitter means and said

receiver means.

The Cho reference discloses

(see column 6 lines 31-59, "The washing machine ... includes ... a key input

section 23 for a user's input of various kinds of operation commands and setting

for functions of the washing machine, a display section 24 for displaying the

functions and operation state of the washing machine, a flash memory, i.e., flash

ROM 25, for storing an operation algorithm of the washing machine and related

information of the washing machine including a use history of the washing machine,

an interface section 26 for performing a data modulation so as to enable data

exchange with an external device connected according to the RS-232C

communication standard such as a personal computer (PC) 31, and a system

microcomputer 27 for controlling the drive microcomputer 22 so that the washing

operation corresponding to the user's operation command inputted through the key

input section 23 is performed, controlling the display section 24 so that the

corresponding operation state or function is displayed, and storing in the flash

ROM 25 the related information of the washing machine transmitted through the

drive microcomputer 22 or data transmitted from the PC 31 through the interface

section 26 or uploading information stored in the flash ROM 25 to the PC 31. The

washing machine may further include a modem, directly connected to the Internet,

for enabling data exchange.")

(see column 7 lines 42-62, "... the high-capacity flash ROM 25 enables the

change of the program. That is, a wash-related program suitable for the user can

be downloaded based on the data uploaded from the corresponding user, or the

predetermined program can be changed. For example, if a newly married couple

has a baby and the laundry includes diapers and so on, the existing washing process

cannot perform a sanitary washing of a level that the user requires. Thus, it is

preferable to change the program or system data so that the rinsing process of

the existing washing program is strengthened through a software provided from

the manufacturer or a service man, or to newly add a sanitation-oriented washing

program for washing the diapers. At this time, the downloading and change of the

program or system data is performed in a manner that the service man or the user

directly connects his PC to the washing machine through the interface section 26,

and downloads a specified program from the data of the PC itself or through the

Internet, or changes the pre-stored program.")

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person

of ordinary skill in the art to modify the programmable appliance taught by the

Gardner reference to include the interface section taught by the Cho reference.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the

programmable appliance to include the interface section to provide for changing

system data that allows a user to identify problems with the product itself,

installation, problems due to regional characteristics, changes in use, and the like,

and to change system operation data accordingly.

11.   Claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

US Pub. No. 2003/0115682 A1 to Gardner in view of US Pub. No. 2002/0040505

A1 to Tanaka et al.

As per claim 17, the Gardner reference does not expressly disclose further

comprising a network for connecting between said transmitter means and said

receiver means.

The Tanaka et al. reference discloses

(see page 2 [0034], "The household electric appliances 1 to 6 are connected

via the home LAN 7 to the home terminal 8 serving as a laundry appliance control

device in the invention. The home terminal 8 communicates via the home LAN 7

with each of the foregoing household electric appliances. The home terminal 8

further accesses via the Internet 9 to the Web server 10 and transmits and

receives an electronic mail. The home LAN 7 is constructed by the wireless

communication by means of Echonet, Ethernet or Bluetooth or-the infrared

communication.")

(see page 2 [0038], "Based on the received washing information and

operation program of the washer-drier, the home terminal 8 adjusts the contents

of the operation executed by the washer-drier 1. Accordingly, the control circuit

27 and external network communication section 28 function as washing information

inputting means. The control circuit 27 functions as adjusting means and rewriting

means.")

(see page 4 [0048], "The operation program received from the home

terminal 8 is stored on the memory 30 of the home terminal 8. Thereafter, the

home terminal 8 adjusts the operation program of the washer-drier 1 on the basis

of the program stored on the memory 30.")

(see page 5 [0053], "The home terminal 8 then receives the latest operation

program via the Internet 9 from the Web server 10 (step S6), transmitting the

received operation program to the washer-drier 1 (step S7). As a result, the

operation program stored on the flash memory 23 is replaced by the latest one.")

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person

of ordinary skill in the art to modify the programmable appliance taught by the

Gardner reference with the information providing means externally accessible via a

communication network taught by the Tanaka et al. reference.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the

programmable appliance with information providing means externally accessible via

a communication network to transmit information about washing via the

communication network and a laundry appliance control device including

communication means for receiving the washing information transmitted via the

communication network from the information providing means and adjusting means

for adjusting the operation program of the laundry appliance on the basis of the

washing information received by the communication means.

As per claim 18, the Tanaka et al. reference discloses said network (see page

2 [0034], "home LAN 7") comprises a wireless network ("wireless communication").

As per claim 19, the Tanaka et al. reference discloses said transmitter

means (see page 2 [0034], "home terminal 8") and said receiver means (see page 2

[0038], "washer-drier 1") makes a communication of the information representing

the specifications of said special operating program based on the ECHONET

Standard (see page 2 [0034], "Echonet").

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from

the examiner should be directed to Crystal J. Barnes whose telephone number is

571.272.3679. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday alternate

Mondays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the

examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 571.272.3687. The fax

phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned

is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

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CJB
26 September 2006